Anchal Department.

30. During the year, 17 new Anchal Offices and 19 new letter boxes were established, thus substantially adding to the convenience of the public. Of the 287 Anchal Offices working at the end of 1104, 182 were departmental offices, and of them 101 were doing savings bank work. The pay of the executive and ministerial staff of the department was revised. By the revision, the Anchal masters and clerks have been included in the same cadre and the pay of the lowest grade has been raised, with effect from the beginning of 1105, from Rs. 15 to Rs. 20. The pay of office peons has been assimilated to that of other peons and the pay of the masters in non-departmental Anchal Offices has been increased from Rs. 7 to 10. By provincialising the staff of clerks and masters, the Anchal Superintendent has been enabled to aviod frequent transfers and also to afford temporary relief to offices where there may be seasonal pressure of work.

Registration Department.

31. Sanction has recently been accorded to a scheme for the revision of pay of the clerical staff of Sub-Registrars' Offices. The pay of the clerks has been raised and the entire staff has been provincialised with a view to enable the Director to make adjustments to cope with pressure of work in individual offices. The lowest pay has been raised from Rs. 15 to Rs. 20, a uniform time-scale granted to head clerks, and the entire clerical staff divided into five grades. The revision has come into effect from the 1st Makaram 1105.

Women and the Public Service.

32. For a long time now women have been employed in the Medical and Education Departments. In recent years there has been a demand that qualified women should be employed in other departments as well. A resolution moved at a recent meeting of the Legislative Council that women should be more freely recruited into the public service was withdrawn on a favourable assurance given by the Government. I am glad to be able to say that something has been done to redeem the pledge by the appointment of women as clerks and typists in the Anchal Department, the High Court, the Office of the Land Revenue Commissioner, the Account Office and the Secretariat. It is, one might say, obviously, quite in the fitness of things that this expansion of the scope of women's work in the public service should come while the country is being ruled by Her Highness the Maha Rani Regent.

Conclusion.

33. I have endeavoured in this opening address to give you a brief review of the chief activities of the State during the past eighteen months. It will, I believe, have made manifest the earnest desire of the Government to improve the efficiency of the administration and to advance the welfare of the country. The objects of the Government, however, require for their attainment the hearty co-operation of the

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people. I am confident that that co-operation Government will always have from you. May I, however, avail myself of this occasion to impress upon the public through its representatives assembled here the need for criticism to be well-informed and fair-minded if it should be helpful and the immediate duty that lies upon all Travancoreans of sinking communal differences in a united effort to retain for our country her rightful place in the front rank of progressive Indian States. Under the benign rule of Her Highness the Maha Rani Regent who is guided in all her actions by the single aim of advancing the interest of her people, the country has made remarkable progress in many directions and we may rest assured that it will continue to do so. Her Highness's confidence and constant guidance have been the mainstay of her Dewans in their work of carrying out Her Highness's aim. Let us then in a spirit of loving reverence offer to Her Highness our humble tribute of loyalty and gratitude.

The Dewan then announced that V. P. Madhava Rao Esq., C. I. E., Sir M. Krishnan Nayar and Dewan Bahadur T. Raghaviah Esq., C. S. I., former Dewans of Travancore, had sent their greetings to the Assembly.

The Assembly adjourned at 12-45 P. M. to meet again at 11-30 A. M. on Wednesday the 5th March, 1930.

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